



# ACTION Alert

2401 Virginia Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037

800 / 424-9717

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Volume II, Issue 11

Dear AAUW Leader:

Thanks to you we did it. One year ago we launched our first issue of Action Alert. We sent every AAUW branch a copy of our publication on a trial basis. Two weeks later we received over 200 subscriptions. Today we have over 1,000 readers.

Once again you have a chance to plug into the Washington scene through our up-to-the-minute Action Alert.

When you respond to the calls to action that appear in every Action Alert, you become part of a national network of members who make the work of the Association Legislative Program Committee and the Public Policy staff more effective. Without your calls, telegrams and letters to Congress such legislation as the Voting Rights Act, the Women's Educational Equity Act, or the military spouses pension law would have been lost.

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Sincerely,

*Kappie Spencer*

Kappie Spencer, Chairman  
Association Legislative Program Committee

## 1982-84 ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM COMMITTEE (ALPC)

The Association Legislative Program Committee is composed of the ALPC chairman, the representatives for the Association's four areas-of-interest (community, cultural policy, educational policy and international relations), chairman of the Committee on Women, and six members-at-large who serve on the ALPC because of their special interest and expertise in legislative issues.

Members of the ALPC are available to consult on your branch's or division's legislative activities. Names of the ALPC members are listed below by both state responsibilities and areas of interest. Please feel free to call on them, as appropriate, for suggestions and comments.

ALPC MEMBERS-AT-LARGE and the ALPC CHAIRMAN take a special responsibility for working with the Division Legislative Program Chairs of certain states. These state assignments are listed below.

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CORRECTION: Copies of AAUW's Voting Record are available from the AAUW Sales Office for \$2.00, not \$5.00 as previously quoted.

RIGHT TO CHOICE DEBATE RESUMES SEPTEMBER 8

The long-awaited debate on abortion finally began on August 16 when the Sen. took up H.J. Res 520, a bill to increase the nation's debt limit. The debate began amid parliamentary maneuvering and a valiant filibuster by Sen. Bob Packwood (R-OR), Lowell Weicker (R-CT) and others. With the Sen. adjourning on August 20 for the Labor Day recess, further consideration of the abortion issue will resume immediately when members return on September 8.

In a nutshell, here's what happened the week of August 16th. On Monday, August 16th, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) offered his initial amendment to the debt ceiling bill, which consisted only of the words "Title II"--there was no accompanying text. Immediately, Sen. Packwood commenced a filibuster. By Tuesday evening Sen. Helms still had not introduced any definite anti-choice language, but Helms reportedly was circulating several different versions of his human life statute.

On Wednesday, August 18 Helms gained the floor and finally introduced the text of "Title II": language stripping the federal courts of jurisdiction over school prayer issues. Helms then amended the Title II language with a slightly revised version of his Super Human Life Bill, S. 2148. It adds two new findings which state that the Supreme Court erred in Roe v. Wade "in not recognizing the humanity of the unborn child" and "in excluding unborn children from the safeguards afforded by the equal protection and due process provisions of the Constitution." The amendment to the debt ceiling bill imposes the same funding restrictions on recipients of Federal funds as are in S.2148, the Helms Super Bill, and provides for direct appeal to the Supreme Court from federal district court rulings that strike down restrictive state abortion laws.

After a brief discussion of this amendment, Sens. Lowell Weicker (R-CT) and Max Baucus (D-MT) introduced two more amendments to the original debt ceiling bill, which state in essence that the federal courts have the authority to enforce the Constitution. Before any debate could take place, Sen. Helms moved to table the Weicker amendment. In an important vote which gave pro-choice forces more time to postpone consideration of Helms' abortion amendment, Helms' motion failed by a 59-38 vote.

On Thursday, August 19th debate continued primarily on matters related to stripping the federal courts of their constitutional jurisdiction and on Friday, August 20th the Sen., eager to begin its Labor Day recess, decided to delay consideration of the debt ceiling bill and the pending amendments. During the day, however, two important events occurred. First, Sen. Majority Leader Baker announced that when the Sen. returns on September 8th, the first item of business will be Sen. Hatch's Human Life Federalism Amendment, S.J. Res. 110. Second, on Friday, August 20 Sen. Baker filed a cloture petition to end filibuster on the Helms "Title II" language. A cloture petition is used to cut off a filibuster. It needs 60 votes to pass. On September 9th, at 2:00 pm, the Sen. is scheduled to vote on Baker's cloture petition. This will be a crucial vote. If cloture is blocked, it will send a signal to Sen. leaders and to Helms that they will face days of debate that will mean a delay of economic legislation which must be acted on before the end of the month.

ACTION: CALL YOUR SENATORS' LOCAL OR WASHINGTON OFFICES ON SEPTEMBER 8. Ask Sens. to vote against all Congressional measures that would limit access to abortion. The cloture vote on September 9 may be the most important vote in the choice debate. We must defeat the cloture motion and to do so we need to prevent the opposition from getting the necessary 60 votes. Urge Sens. to participate in the floor debates and to vote against the cloture petition on September 9th. The following Sens. participated in the debate the week of August 16th and need your thanks and encouragement to continue doing so: Packwood, Weicker, Baucus, Hart, Tsongas, Specter, Moynihan, Percy, Leahy and Glenn (on choice); and Hatfield and Kassebaum (against limiting court jurisdiction on prayer issues).

TUITION TAX CREDITS: SEN. FINANCE COMMITTEE BEGINS CONSIDERATION

The Sen. Finance Committee has begun its markup of the administration's tuition tax credit (TTC) proposal, S. 2673, and is schedule to complete committee work on the bill shortly after returning from Labor Day recess. Sen. floor consideration could follow the committee action. H.R. 6701 is the Hse.'s bill number for S. 2673. No action is scheduled in the Hse. Ways and Means Committee, but if the Sen. acts the Hse. may follow suit.

S. 2673 would provide special income tax breaks for taxpayers who send their children to non-public schools. Under the provisions of S. 2673, parents of children in private, non-profit, elementary and secondary schools could claim a non-refundable credit on their federal income tax for private school tuition costs up to a maximum of 50% of tuition paid for each child, to a maximum credit per child of \$100 in 1983, \$300 in 1984, and \$500 in 1985. This credit would phase out for families with adjusted gross incomes of \$50,000 or above, and would be eliminated entirely at an adjusted gross income level of \$75,000.

(Continued on page 3)

TUITION TAX CREDITS: SEN. FINANCE COMMITTEE BEGINS CONSIDERATION (Continued)

Based on its commitment to full funding for public education and to equal educational opportunity for all Americans, AAUW strongly opposes TTCs at all educational levels. It is clear that public education funding will be cut in amounts equal to that spent on TTCs.

The most effective argument to use in arguing against TTCs is the cost of the credits. The total cost of the administration's proposal is estimated at \$2.2 B by the administration and at \$4.5 B by other reliable sources. Why, in a year when money for other educational entitlement programs is being cut, is their money for a new and expensive program?

*ACTION: Write members of the Sen. Finance Committee and the following undecided Sens: Democrats - Biden (DE), R. Byrd (W. VA), Dixon (IL), Heflin (AL), Jackson (WA), Melcher (MT), Metzenbaum (OH); Republicans - Abdnor (SD), Andrews (SD), Cohen (ME), Gorton (WA), Kasten (WI), Nickles (OK), Rudman (NH), Schmitt (NM), Specter (PA), Thurmond (SC), and Warner (VA). Urge opposition to TTCs. Also write your Rep. if he/she serves on the Hse. Ways and Means Committee.*

ACT NOW!

The 97th Congress will come to a close at the end of September. Barring a lame duck session, this is your last opportunity to raise AAUW legislative concerns with your MCs. Your MCs will probably be home from the time you receive this Action Alert until after Labor Day. If possible, try to meet with your MC and inform him/her about AAUW legislative positions.

Another way AAUW members can become involved in the political process is by helping your branch organize a candidate forum. In November, elections will be held for 32 seats in the U.S. Sen. and 435 seats in the U.S. Hse. of Reps. AAUW does not endorse candidates, but we urge branches to take part in the upcoming elections by holding candidate forums where issues we support can be discussed. All candidates for an office must be invited to and given equal time at a forum. AAUW members should come prepared to ask questions and speak out about Association, Division or branch concerns and ask candidates how they will act on these issues if elected.

The AAUW Voting Record is a useful tool to help members prepare for a candidate forum. The Voting Record contains a summary of the MC's vote, whether he or she voted right or wrong on AAUW's position, and a percentage rating for his or her entire record. By knowing about these votes, you will be in a better position to ask the right question of the candidate at the forum. To see how your Rep. or Sen. fared, a copy of the Voting Record is available at a cost of \$2.00 through the AAUW Sales Office.

We also suggest that the following tools may help branch members prepare for the candidate forum: the AAUW Legislative Program, (single copies free), Action Alert, Leader in Action, Legislative History and Policy Notes (\$4.00). The Public Policy staff, of course, is always available to provide background and legislative information.

THE 1982 TAX LAW

While AAUW did not take a position on the 1982 tax legislation, many of the changes will affect programs of concern to AAUW. Major provisions of the new law include:

- Effective July 1, 1983, taxes will be withheld at a 10% rate from most dividend and interest payments, just as they are now from wages.
- The 1% excise tax on telephone service will rise to 3% on Jan. 1, 1983. The tax will be eliminated completely after 1985.
- Beginning Jan. 1, 1983, federal employees and postal workers must pay the Medicare portion of the Social Security tax (1.3% of the first \$35,100 of wages).
- Effective Sept. 1, 1982, the federal tax on airplane passenger tickets will rise from 5% to 8%.
- Beginning in 1983, medical deductions may be made for costs in excess of 5% of adjusted gross income. Previously the figure was 3%. In addition, deductions for half of health insurance premiums up to \$150 will no longer be allowed.
- Individuals over 65 who paid income tax of \$1500 or less the previous year--\$2,000 on a joint return--or persons under 65 who paid \$600 or less the previous year--\$1,000 on a joint return--are allowed to exempt themselves from the requirements for withholding.
- Deductions allowed for contributions to pension plans will be cut back.

SOURCE: Washington Post, August 21, 1982

ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Continued from page 1)

KAPPIE SPENCER, Chairman, 1700 S.W. Bell Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50315, H-515/243-5743 or O-515/244-0012. State Responsibilities: Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.  
 ANN CHIPLEY, 619 Sycamore Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27801, H-919/442-7005, or O-919/442-1913. State Responsibilities: Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.  
 CAROLINE HEAD, 14312 Yosemite Court, Rockville, MD 20853, H-301/460-5049. State Responsibilities: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont.  
 HARRIS LENTINI, 123 Melody Drive, Carrollton, GA 30117, H-404/834-5673. State Responsibilities: Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.  
 BETTY McELDERRY, Route 1, Box 359, Purcell, OK 73080, H-405/527-3563. State Responsibilities: Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming.  
 JOANNE SNELL, 552 Birchwood Road, Jackson, MI 49203, H-517/750-3317 or O-517/789-8944. State Responsibilities: Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Rhode Island and Wisconsin.  
 CHRIS WINTER, 718 Dolphin Drive, Danville, CA 94526, H-415/837-4882. State Responsibilities: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

AREA OF INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES on the Association Legislative Program Committee are available to provide assistance in matters related to their respective focus areas:

SARAH HARDER, Schofield 225, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI 54701, H-715-834-5922 or O-715/836-5715. Chairman, Committee on Women.  
 DORCAS DOERING, 3 Pence Drive, Hillsborough, IL 60249, H-217/532-2955. Area of Interest Representative for Community.  
 BETTY ANDERSON, 5017 15th, Lubbock, TX 79416, H-806/795-4077. Area of Interest Representative for Cultural Policy.  
 ALAYNE HANNAFORD, Route 1, #35 Country Homes, Moscow, ID 82842, H-208/882-8869 or O-208-885-6616. Area of Interest for Educational Policy.  
 BEVERLY EVERETT, Route 2, New Sharon, IA 50207, H-515/637-2779. Area of Interest Representative for International Relations.

PEACE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: THEME OF THE AAUW 1982 UN SEMINAR to be held November 12 and 13 in New York City. For further information, write the AAUW Convention Office, 2401 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037. The deadline for UN Seminar registration is November 5. Association travelships are available for the seminar, but applications must be postmarked by September 15.

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